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**COVINGTON COUNTY'S NEW HOPE CEMETERY ADDED TO  
ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added New Hope Cemetery near Onycha to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

There are now five cemeteries in Covington County listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 268 cemeteries statewide.

Mr. Dennis Murphy of Opp completed all the state requirements to nominate this cemetery to the historic cemetery register. Mr. Murphy provided maps, photographs, and historical information for the cemetery.

This cemetery was founded in the early 1860s and is the final resting place for several generations of members of New Hope Church, now in its 150<sup>th</sup> year. Martha Barnes Powell, who was a charter member of New Hope Church is buried here as well as several veterans of U.S. foreign wars.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that assists the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

The mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission** is to protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places. It is the state's historic preservation agency and serves as the State Historic Preservation Office.

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